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**THE CONSERVATIVE  
BAPTIST FOREIGN  
MISSION SOCIETY**

(Revised July, 1949)

# CONSTITUTION

## ARTICLE ONE

### NAME

The corporate name of this organization shall be The Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society.

## ARTICLE TWO

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this Society is to promote Scripturally sound foreign missionary activities and to this end to recruit and send forth missionaries, to collect and disburse funds, to disseminate information and to acquire property, real and personal, necessary or convenient, to be used in connection with these objects.

## ARTICLE THREE

### DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Only those persons who, without reservation, fully and freely subscribe to the following doctrinal statement are eligible to vote, and only those who without reserva-

### DOCTRINAL STATEMENT (cont.)

tion will subscribe to, by signing, the following doctrinal statement annually, are eligible to serve as officers, regular employees or missionary representatives of the Society. The annual signing of the doctrinal statement on the part of missionaries, Board members, and staff will be done at the first meeting of the calendar year, it being understood that the Foreign Secretary will secure the signatures of those on the foreign field for that meeting.

#### One

We believe that the Bible is God's Word, that it was written by men divinely and uniquely inspired, that it is absolutely trustworthy and has supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

#### Two

We believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, perfect in holiness, infinite in wisdom, measureless in power. We rejoice that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayer and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

#### Three

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, sinless in His life, making atonement for the sin of the world by His death on the cross. We believe in His bodily resurrection, His ascension into

## 4 ★ ARTICLE THREE

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### DOCTRINAL STATEMENT (Cont.)

heaven, His high priestly intercession for His people and His personal, visible return to the world according to His promise.

#### Four

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who came forth from God to convince the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment, and to regenerate, sanctify and comfort those who believe in Jesus Christ.

#### Five

We believe that all men by nature and by choice are sinners, but that "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We believe, therefore, that those who accept Christ as their Lord and Saviour will rejoice forever in God's presence and those who refuse to accept Christ as Lord and Saviour will be forever separated from God.

#### Six

We believe in the Church—a living, spiritual body of which Christ is the Head and of which all regenerated people are members. We believe that a visible church is a company of believers in Jesus Christ, buried with Him in baptism and associated for worship, work and fellowship. We believe that to these visible churches were committed, for observance "till He come," the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper; and that God has laid upon these

### DOCTRINAL STATEMENT (cont.)

churches the task of persuading a lost world to accept Jesus Christ as Saviour and to enthrone Him as Lord and Master. We believe that human betterment and social improvement are essential products of the Gospel.

#### Seven

We believe that every human being is responsible to God alone in all matters of faith.

#### Eight

We believe that each church is independent and autonomous, and must be free from interference by any ecclesiastical or political authority; that, therefore, Church and State must be kept separate as having different functions, each fulfilling its duties free from the dictation or patronage of the other.

## ARTICLE FOUR

### MEMBERSHIP

#### One

Any Baptist church, any individuals or groups agreeing to the doctrines and policies of the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society and making contributions to its work in the current year shall be entitled to membership in the Society.

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### MEMBERSHIP (Cont.)

#### Two—Eligibility to Vote

The privilege of voting in the meetings of the Conservative Baptist Foreign Mission Society shall be restricted to those who annually sign the doctrinal statement.

## ARTICLE FIVE

### OFFICERS

#### One—Officers to Be Elected

The officers of the Society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, General Director, Foreign Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Board of 18 members. The President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary and Treasurer shall be members of the Board. The General Director and Foreign Secretary shall be ex-officio members of the Board without privilege to vote.

#### Two

The President, Vice-President, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary shall be elected by vote of the constituent membership and shall, by virtue of such election, be members of and serve as President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary of the Board of Directors. A General Director, Foreign Secretary and a Treasurer of the Society shall be elected annually by the Board of Directors subject to the approval of the Society.



### OFFICERS (Cont.)

#### Three

At the annual meeting the Society shall form three Area Caucuses, whose purpose shall be to elect from their respective geographical areas such directors to the Society as will complete their full area representation on the Board.

#### Four

In the event a member of the Board of Directors leaves the geographical area from which he was elected, he shall continue to serve until the next annual meeting of the Society, at which time his successor as representative of the geographical area shall be elected according to the prescribed procedure.

#### Five—Terms of Office

The President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary and Recording Secretary of the Society shall serve for a term of one year. At each annual meeting of the Society, the Society shall elect six persons to serve for a term of three years, except that at the first election under this constitution 18 members shall be elected—six to serve for a term of three years, six to serve for two years and six to serve for one year. No member except the General Director, Foreign Secretary and Treasurer, after serving for six consecutive years, shall be eligible for re-election until the lapse of at least one year.

(This shall be interpreted to mean as fol-

**OFFICERS (Cont.)**

lows: That no person shall be elected to a term of office either on the Board or as an officer, that will permit him to serve more than six consecutive years.)

Of the eighteen persons elected to serve on the Board, one-third shall be chosen from each of the three geographical areas into which our constituency is divided — namely, Eastern States composed of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and the District of Columbia; Central States composed of West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas; Western States composed of Colorado, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Arizona, Nevada, Washington, Oregon and California.

**Six—Duties of Officers**

1. President. The President shall preside at meetings of the Society and of the Board. The President shall be ex-officio member of all committees.

2. Vice President. The Vice President shall preside at the meetings of the Society and of the Board in the absence of the President, and shall perform all other duties appertaining to the office of President in case of the death, resignation or incapacitating illness of the President.



### OFFICERS (Cont.)

3. Corresponding Secretary. The Corresponding Secretary shall give due notification to those entitled thereto of all meetings of the Society, and shall perform such duties as appertain to his office.

4. Recording Secretary. It shall be the responsibility of the Recording Secretary to keep complete and accurate records of all proceedings of the meetings of the Board and of the meetings of the Society.

5. General Director. It shall be the responsibility of the General Director to supervise and coordinate the activities of the Society along lines indicated by the constitution of the Society, and in accordance with the instructions of the Board.

6. Foreign Secretary. It shall be the duty of the Foreign Secretary to conduct necessary correspondence with Field Councils and individual missionaries and to supervise the work on our various mission fields.

#### 7. Treasurer.

a. The duties of the Treasurer shall be as follows:

(1) He shall have custody of all papers showing evidences of title, and all bonds, stocks, monies on hand or on deposit in banks, and other fiscal assets belonging to the Society.

(2) He shall have charge of administering the Society's pension plan, including the investing, segregating and disbursing of

**OFFICERS (Cont.)**

the funds, and the custody of the insurance policies issued under the plan, subject to the approval of the Finance Committee.

(3) He shall have authority to accept for safe keeping, books, papers and documents or other valuables belonging to the Society's missionaries.

(4) He shall receive and deposit all funds belonging to the Society and shall make all disbursements necessary in the normal operation of the Society.

(5) He shall have authority, upon the recommendation of the Finance Committee, to change the form of the assets of the Society, and to invest its funds.

(6) He shall keep or cause to be kept accurate books of accounts, in which all the financial transactions of the Society shall be fully set forth, which books of account shall be open at all times to the inspection of the Board of Directors or any member thereof.

(7) He shall sign all deeds, notes, evidences of indebtedness and other papers necessary in carrying out the purposes of the Society only when directed to do so by the Board of Directors or the Finance Committee.

(8) He shall render to the Board of Directors and the Finance Committee, periodically, reports of the financial condition of the Society.

(9) He shall be duly and legally bonded and shall have authority to determine to

### OFFICERS (cont.)

what extent those under his supervision shall likewise be bonded.

(10) He shall perform such other duties as appertain to his office, and such other duties as may be delegated to him by the Board of Directors or the Finance Committee.

b. Assistant Treasurer or equivalent salaried employee. The Board shall engage on a salary basis, one whom it may designate as Assistant Treasurer and who, under the direction of the Treasurer, shall supervise the operation of the fiscal department, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors or the Finance Committee.

8. Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall have full charge of all the affairs of the Society, and between the sessions of the Society shall be empowered to take whatever steps it deems necessary to the successful accomplishment of the objects of the Society as set forth under Article Two of this Constitution. The Board will appoint such officers and formulate such by-laws as are deemed necessary.

### 9. Standing Committees of the Board.

a. There shall be appointed annually the following Standing Committees of the Board:

Finance, Fields, Candidate, Executive, Missionary Education.

## 12 ★ ARTICLE FIVE

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### OFFICERS (Cont.)

#### b. Appointment of Committees.

Following the Annual Meeting of the Society the President, the Vice President, the Corresponding and Recording Secretaries and Treasurer shall constitute themselves a committee to nominate the chairmen and members of these Standing Committees, which nominations shall be voted upon by the Board of Directors.

#### c. Executive Committee.

(1) The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers of the Board together with the chairmen of the Standing Committees. The retiring President shall also serve on this committee for his one year term as ex-officio member of the Board.

(2) The function of the Executive Committee shall be that of a representative group to execute such business as may be committed to it by the Board.

#### d. Finance Committee.

(1) The Finance Committee shall be composed of the following:

(a) A Chairman, who shall be chosen from the membership of the Board of Directors, other than the Treasurer.

(b) The Treasurer of the Society.

(c) Three or more additional members.

(d) A secretary who may or may not be a regularly appointed member of the Com-

### OFFICERS (cont.)

mittee, but who, if he is a salaried employee of the Society, shall not have a vote.

(2) The duties of the Finance Committee shall be as follows:

(a) The preparation and supervision of the budget as approved by the Board of Directors.

(b) Counselling with the Treasurer regarding the Society's investments.

(c) Consideration of matters appertaining to the finances of the Society.

(d) Such other duties as may be delegated by the Board of Directors.

#### e. Fields Committee.

(1) The Fields Committee shall be organized under its chairman to study the needs of our fields, to counsel with our Foreign Secretary and to bring its recommendations to the Board. It shall also review the work of each missionary at furlough time with a view to recommendation for future service.

(2) For these purposes it shall divide into such sub-committees as can represent the detailed interests of all our fields. In the work of the sub-committees shall be enlisted as wide representation of the entire Board as possible.

#### f. Candidate Committee.

The Candidate Committee shall be composed of at least four members. Its duties shall be to review all missionary applica-

## 14 ★ ARTICLE FIVE

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### OFFICERS (Cont.)

tions, to give such advice as may be sought and to recommend to the Board such candidates as in its judgment are qualified for appointment.

g. Missionary Education Committee.

The Missionary Education Committee shall be composed of at least four members. Its duties shall be to create missionary materials for the use of every age level in the church and to create plans and programs for the stimulation of missionary interest and activity.

10. The retiring President of the Society shall serve as ex-officio member of the Board for a term of one year.

11. Vacancies. In case of a vacancy in any office of the Society, the Board of Directors, at any regular or duly called meeting of the Board, may fill such vacancy until the next annual meeting of the Society.

12. Eligibility to vote. No salaried officer or employee of the Society shall be eligible to vote at meetings of the Board or Society, or any Committees.

## ARTICLE SIX

### MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Society may be held in connection with the Annual Meeting of the Northern Baptist Convention, at



### MEETINGS (Cont.)

such time and place as shall be determined by the Board of Directors, and, in lieu of the holding of any regular meeting of the Convention, the meeting of the Society may be held in connection with the meetings of the General Council of the Northern Baptist Convention, or held as otherwise determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall meet three times yearly and at other times as deemed necessary.

## ARTICLE SEVEN

### COMMITTEES

There shall be a Nominating Committee of nine members elected annually from the three geographical areas — Western, Central and Eastern — into which the constituency is divided. Three of these shall come from each area and shall be elected in area caucuses in connection with the annual meeting of the Society.

This committee shall present to the Society nominations for President, Vice President, Corresponding Secretary, and Recording Secretary.

## ARTICLE EIGHT

### QUORUM

Eight members of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; 100 members shall

constitute a quorum for the annual meeting of the Society, and 50 members shall constitute a quorum in any year that the Northern Baptist Convention does not meet.

## ARTICLE NINE

### AMENDMENTS

This Constitution, except Article Three, may be altered or amended at any annual meeting of the Society by a two-thirds vote of the members present, providing the proposed alteration or amendment shall have been presented in writing to the Society at its last annual meeting. Article Three cannot be changed except by unanimous consent of the members present in an annual meeting, after said change has been presented in writing at the last annual meeting.



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